

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003 Examiner: Dunwoody, Aaron M

Title: TUBE JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

The information is in the form of references, which have been cited, in a corresponding Office Action from the German Patent Office, dated September 15, 2004 as a foreign counterpart application to the present application.

A copy of the German Office Action is enclosed, along with eleven (11) references cited therein.

The fact that the references have been cited in the foreign counterpart application satisfies the applicant's requirement for an explanation of relevance concerning these citations, according to MPEP § 609. Accordingly, consideration of all references is both proper and required.

The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed,



Paul A. Guss

Date: November 10, 2004

This information is being submitted after receiving a first Office Action, but before receipt of a Final Office Action on the merits. Hence, in accordance with the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) Statement above, no fees are due. Should it be deemed that any fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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| Substitute for Form 1449/PTO | | Complete If Known | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | Application Number | 10/706,945 |
| | | Filing Date | November 14, 2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Fukano et al. |
| | | Art Unit | 3679 |
| | | Examiner Name | A. Dunwoody |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | CS-31-031114 |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|---|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Country Code ² "Number" "Kind Code" (<i>If known</i>) | MM-DD-YYYY | | T ³ |
| | | JP 2001-193876 | 07-17-2001 | | |
| | | DE 41 41 309 | 09-10-1992 | | |
| | | DE 37 37 062 | 12-14-1989 | | |
| | | DE 195 28 195 | 02-06-1997 | | |
| | | DE 87 00415.1 | 04-02-1987 | | |
| | | DE 73 36 713 | 01-17-1974 | | |

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| | | First Named Inventor | Fukano et al. |
| | | Art Unit | 3679 |
| | | Examiner Name | A. Dunwoody |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | CS-31-031114 |
| Sheet 11 | of 1 | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ² |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (If known) | | | | |
| | | JP 2001-193876 | 07-17-2001 | | | |
| | | DE 41 41 309 | 09-10-1992 | | | |
| | | DE 37 37 062 | 12-14-1989 | | | |
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| | | DE 73 36 713 | 01-17-1974 | | | |

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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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